



SOUTHBRIDGE

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Southbridge, a town of approximately 17,800 people, is located in the south central portion of the Commonwealth, nearly equidistant from the cities of Hartford, Springfield, Providence and Worcester. Although conveniently situated near larger more urbanized areas, Southbridge is the nucleus of a scenic, semi-rural region. The town provides a wide array of facilities and services including a kindergarten through twelfth grade al system, full time police, fire and emergency services departments and the maintenance of quality water and sewerage systems. Southbridge has successfully maintained a Moody's bond rating of A for over a decade while ensuring services for its residents. Two recent essential projects the town has had the ability to fund are; renovations and additions to three elementary schools, and the purchase of a water company serving 95% of the town.

Southbridge offers a broad range of opportunities and excellent quality of life, its residents feel. The town's heritage is the manufacture of optical products and peripheral industries and is now one of the world's major centers for fiber optics technology. Other industries flourish as well, including cutlery manufacture and tool and die making. There is a modern full service hospital, an active cultural center, a YMCA with indoor pool and programs for all ages (including lakefront summer camp), active sports leagues and three parks. Housing stock is plentiful. Education is a priority, with three elementary schools and a junior high school emphasizing the basics while the high school and a regional vocational technical high school prepare students for the workworld and entry into college. Opportunities for civic, service, religious and cultural participation are abundant and diverse, and citizens partake of recreational activities both locally and regionally. These and other opportunities and services lead to a quality of life that is appreciated and enjoyed by the entire community.

(Narrative supplied by community)

uffumville Lake Station)

Normal temperature in January.....21.7°F
Normal temperature in July.....69.8°F
Normal annual precipitation.....46.4"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Southbridge, Webster

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 764-5408

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Town Council

Town Manager

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1816

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

Number	%
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Total Registered 8,288

Democrats 4,379 52.8 % Republicans 830 10.0 % Other parties 1 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 3,078 37.1 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Southbridge town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	17,214	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	17,214	100.0
Male.....	8,287	48.1	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	3,472	20.2
Female.....	8,927	51.9	Mexican.....	62	0.4
Under 5 years.....	1,138	6.6	Puerto Rican.....	3,033	17.6
5 to 9 years.....	1,284	7.5	Cuban.....	26	0.2
10 to 14 years.....	1,228	7.1	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	351	2.0
15 to 19 years.....	1,127	6.5	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	13,742	79.8
20 to 24 years.....	1,064	6.2	White alone.....	13,028	75.7
25 to 34 years.....	2,576	15.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	2,642	15.3	Total population.....	17,214	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,156	12.5	In households.....	17,037	99.0
55 to 59 years.....	797	4.6	Householder.....	7,077	41.1
60 to 64 years.....	602	3.5	Spouse.....	3,087	17.9
65 to 74 years.....	1,114	6.5	Child.....	5,147	29.9
75 to 84 years.....	1,090	6.3	Own child under 18 years.....	4,044	23.5
85 years and over.....	396	2.3	Other relatives.....	711	4.1
Median age (years).....	35.8	(X)	Under 18 years.....	218	1.3
18 years and over.....	12,847	74.6	Nonrelatives.....	1,015	5.9
Male.....	5,985	34.8	Unmarried partner.....	587	3.4
Female.....	6,862	39.9	In group quarters.....	177	1.0
21 years and over.....	12,246	71.1	Institutionalized population.....	156	0.9
62 years and over.....	2,947	17.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	21	0.1
65 years and over.....	2,600	15.1	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	980	5.7	Total households.....	7,077	100.0
Female.....	1,620	9.4	Family households (families).....	4,520	63.9
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	2,203	31.1
One race.....	16,761	97.4	Married-couple family.....	3,087	43.6
White.....	14,672	85.2	With own children under 18 years.....	1,283	18.1
Black or African American.....	246	1.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	1,100	15.5
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	73	0.4	With own children under 18 years.....	746	10.5
Asian.....	261	1.5	Nonfamily households.....	2,557	36.1
Asian Indian.....	35	0.2	Householder living alone.....	2,103	29.7
Chinese.....	27	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	858	12.1
Filipino.....	16	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,358	33.3
Japanese.....	8	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over ..	1,850	26.1
Korean.....	7	-	Average household size.....	2.41	(X)
Vietnamese.....	6	-	Average family size.....	2.98	(X)
Other Asian ¹	162	0.9	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	11	0.1	Total housing units.....	7,511	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	3	-	Occupied housing units.....	7,077	94.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	434	5.8
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	8	-	occasional use.....	25	0.3
Some other race.....	1,498	8.7	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.7	(X)
Two or more races.....	453	2.6	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	5.2	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	7,077	100.0
White.....	15,095	87.3	Owner-occupied housing units.....	3,180	44.9
Black or African American.....	322	1.9	Renter-occupied housing units.....	3,897	55.1
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	151	0.9	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.59	(X)
Asian.....	344	2.0	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.26	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	37	0.2			
Some other race.....	1,796	10.4			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 176

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 75

Federal (Section 8): 138



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 131, 169, and 198. U.S. Route 20 and the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90) are readily accessible in neighboring Sturbridge.

Rail

The Providence and Worcester Railroad provides freight rail service to Southbridge. Contact number: (508) 755-4000 ext. 310

Bus

Southbridge is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) but does not receive services.

Other

The Southbridge Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located 2 mi. N of town, has a 3,500' x 75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

None

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

Harrington Memorial Hospital

Long Term Care

Providence House Nursing Home of
Southbridge

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.